

Membership Balance Plan
United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group

Agency: Department of Defense (DoD)

1. Authority: The Secretary of Defense, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.50(d), established the United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group (“the Group”).
2. Mission/Function: The Group, under the provisions of FACA, shall provide the Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Commander of the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) with independent advice and recommendations on:
 - a. Scientific, technical, intelligence, and policy-related matters of interest to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the USSTRATCOM concerning the development and implementation of the Nation’s strategic war plans;
 - b. Enhancements in U.S. Strategic Command’s mission area responsibilities; and
 - c. Other matters related to the Nation’s strategic forces, as requested by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the Commander, USSTRATCOM.
3. Points of View: The Group shall be comprised of not more than 20 members who are eminent authorities in the fields of strategic policy formulation; nuclear weapon design; national command, control, communications, intelligence, and information operations; or other important aspects of the Nation’s strategic forces.

The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Group, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals and bases its selection on this review and the subject matters handled by the Group. The Department has found that viewing complex issues through a multi-disciplinary advisory committee provides DoD senior leadership and, more importantly, the American public with a broader understanding on which to base subsequent policy decisions.

Each member, based upon his or her individual and professional experiences, provides his or her best judgment on the matters before the Group, and he or she does so without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest. Group members appointed by the Secretary of Defense, who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees shall be appointed as experts or consultants, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3109, to serve as special government employee (SGE) members. Those members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees shall be appointed, pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.130(a), to serve as regular government employee (RGE) members. All Group members shall be renewed on an annual basis by the Secretary of Defense.

The Group’s membership is not static and the Secretary of Defense may change the membership based upon work assigned to the Group by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the Group’s Sponsor. In addition, the Department, unless otherwise directed by an Act of Congress or Presidential directive, does not use representative members on DoD established or supported advisory committees.

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4. Other Balance Factors: None.
5. Candidate Identification Process: The DoD, in selecting potential candidates for the Group, reviews the educational and professional credentials of individuals with extensive professional experience in the fields of strategic policy formulation; nuclear weapon design; national command, control, communications, intelligence, and information operations; or other important aspects of the Nation's strategic forces.

Once potential candidates are identified, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), in consultation with the Group's Chair, reviews the credentials of each individual and narrows the list of potential candidates. The DFO will forward the list of potential candidates to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the Commander, USSTRATCOM. During the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff review, he or she strives to achieve a balance between the educational and professional credentials of the individual candidates, and the subject matters anticipated to be reviewed by the Group.

Prior to nominating the potential candidates, the list of candidates will undergo a review by the Office of General Counsel of the Department of Defense and the Office of the Advisory Committee Management Officer to ensure compliance with Federal and DoD governance requirements, including compliance with the Group's charter and membership balance plan. Following this review, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff formally nominates the potential candidates to the Secretary of Defense for approval. Pursuant to DoD policy, only the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense can invite or approve the appointment of individuals to advisory committees established or supported by the Department.

Following approval by the Secretary of Defense or the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the candidates are required to complete the necessary appointment paperwork, to include meeting ethics requirements stipulated by the Office of Government Ethics for advisory committee members.

The Secretary of Defense may approve the appointment of Group members for one-to-four year terms of service, with annual renewals; however, no Group member may serve more than two consecutive terms of service, unless authorized by the Secretary of Defense.

Group and subcommittee member vacancies will be filled in the same manner as described in the previous five paragraphs above.

6. Subcommittee Balance: The Department, when necessary and consistent with the Group's mission and DoD policies and procedures, may establish subcommittees deemed necessary to support the Group. The DoD has established one permanent subcommittee, the Stockpile Assessment Team, which has the same points of view requirements as the Group.

The Secretary of Defense shall appoint subcommittee members even if the member in question is already appointed to the Group. Subcommittee members may be appointed for a term of service of one-to-four years, with annual renewals; however, no subcommittee

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member may serve more than two terms of service, unless authorized by the Secretary of Defense. These individuals may come from the Group or be new nominees, as recommended by the Group's Sponsor and based upon the subject matters under consideration.

Each subcommittee member, based upon his or her individual and professional experiences, provides his or her best judgment on the matters before the Group. He or she does so without representing any particular point of view and in a manner that is free from conflict of interest. Subcommittee members, who are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, shall be appointed as experts or consultants, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 3109, to serve as SGE members. Those members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees shall be appointed, pursuant to 41 C.F.R. § 102-3.130(a), to serve as RGE members.

7. Other: As nominees are considered for appointment to the Group, the DoD adheres to the rules and regulations issued by the Office of Management and Budget's Final Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Boards and Commissions (76 FR 61756; October 5, 2011) and the rules and regulations issued by the Office of Government Ethics.
8. Date Prepared: May 31, 2014